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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the budget for the International Seabed Authority for 1997, as approved by the Authority. The approved 1997 budget of $4,150,500 covers the administrative expenses of the Secretariat of the Authority ($2,750,500) and the conference-servicing costs ($1,400,000) of the Authority.

2. By its resolution 48/263 of 28 July 1994, the General Assembly decided that, "until the end of the year following the year during which the Agreement [relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982] enters into force, the administrative expenses of the International Seabed Authority shall be met through the budget of the United Nations". The administrative expenses of the Authority must therefore be met through a subvention to be charged to the regular budget of the United Nations.

3. It is anticipated that the provision of conference services ($1,400,000) on the lines outlined in paragraph 35 of annex I can be provided from within the overall resources available under section 26E of the programme budget. To fulfil the obligations entered into by the General Assembly under resolution 48/263, provision for the administrative expenses ($2,750,500) will need to be considered in the context of the revised appropriation by the Assembly, after review of all relevant reports, including the first performance report.

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ANNEX I

Budget of the International Seabed Authority for 1997
as adopted by the Assembly of the Authority a/

A. Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority at the third part of its first session, held at Kingston from 7 to 18 August 1995, pending the election of the Secretary-General of the Authority, the Secretary-General of the United Nations submitted to the United Nations General Assembly at its fiftieth session, on behalf of the Authority, a draft budget covering the administrative expenses of the Secretariat of the Authority and the conference-servicing costs of the Authority for 1996.

2. By its resolution 48/263 of 28 July 1994, the General Assembly had decided to fund the administrative expenses of the Authority until the end of the year following the year during which the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 entered into force. Furthermore, in its July 1994 report (A/48/964) on the programme budget implications of the Agreement, the Fifth Committee, following its consideration of the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/48/80) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/48/7/Add.16), informed the General Assembly that the projected resource requirements for the Authority for the period 1994-1999 would be $25,438,500 (see also the table in A/48/7/Add.16). The Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea emphasized, moreover, that for the first year of its operation (which eventually was 1996), the budget of the Authority "was premised on the assumption that the activities of the Authority [in that period] would relate in large measure to the establishment and internal administration of the Authority." The Preparatory Commission added that "in the preparation of a draft budget for [1997], the Secretary-General of the Authority would need to consider the substantive functions of the Authority in relation to the anticipated level of activities in the Area." b/ (The dates have been modified in view of the unanticipated delay in the election of the Council of the Authority.)

3. On the basis of the above, the amount of $2,627,100 was authorized by the General Assembly to meet the administrative expenses ($1,308,200) of the Secretariat of the Authority and conference-servicing expenses ($1,318,900) of the Authority for 1996. The amount authorized for the Secretariat provided $643,400 for 20 posts (1 U-S-G, 1 D-2, 2 P-5, 2 P-2 and 14 General Service) and $664,800 for ancillary requirements. The year 1997 will witness the initiation of the substantive work programme of the Authority. It should be noted that the total estimated requirements for 1997 contained in the present report in the amount of $4,150,500 are $1,939,500 less than the estimated amount of $6,090,000 contained in the report of the Advisory Committee (A/48/7/Add.16). Bearing in mind the requirements of the substantive work programme, which is of a highly technical nature, it is proposed that 15 posts at the Professional level and

above (1 S-G, 2 D-1, 4 P-5, 3 P-4 and 5 P-3) and 15 posts at the General Service level would be required in 1997.

4. As the Implementing Agreement entered into force on 28 July 1996 and, under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 48/263, the budget of the Authority for 1997 is to be funded from the budget of the United Nations. The Council and the Assembly of the Authority have considered and adopted the proposed budget for 1997 as presented herein and are transmitting it to the General Assembly of the United Nations through the Secretary-General.

5. In preparing the budget, the Secretary-General carried out a careful and thorough examination of the functions of the Secretariat of the Authority emanating from the functions of the Authority, as specified in Part XI of the Convention and the Implementing Agreement, in particular as laid down in paragraph 5 of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement. It should be recalled that, under the provisions of paragraph 1 of section 2 of the Agreement, the Secretariat of the Authority is also expected to perform the functions of the Enterprise until it begins to operate independently of the Secretariat. In the present report, the programme of work for 1997 has been designed bearing in mind the current and anticipated level of activities in the international seabed area (the "Area") and the necessity for the Authority to discharge its responsibilities in the most cost-effective manner.

B. Organization of the Secretariat of the Authority, its programme of work for 1997 and resource requirements

Functions of the Secretariat of the Authority

6. Part XI of the Convention and the Implementing Agreement clearly define the powers and functions of the Authority. According to section 1, paragraph 1, of the annex to the Agreement,

> "The International Seabed Authority ... is the organization through which States Parties to the Convention shall, in accordance with the regime for the Area established in Part XI and this Agreement, organize and control activities in the Area, particularly with a view to administering the resources of the Area. The powers and functions of the Authority shall be those expressly conferred upon it by the Convention. The Authority shall have such incidental powers, consistent with the Convention, as are implicit in, and necessary for, the exercise of those powers and functions with respect to activities in the Area."

The Agreement, in section 1, paragraph 5, of the annex, specifies a number of functions that the Authority shall concentrate on between the entry into force of the Convention and the approval of the first plan of work for exploitation. It is evident from an analysis of these functions that one of the broad areas that the Authority has to focus on is rule making and implementation, and that another broad area is monitoring and studying resource and environment-related matters.

7. The Secretariat is one of the three principal organs of the Authority, the others being the Assembly and the Council. The Secretariat is to provide services to the Assembly and the Council as well as the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee. In accordance with article 160, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the Assembly has the power to establish general policies in conformity with the relevant provisions contained in Part XI of the Convention and the Implementing Agreement on any question or matter within the competence of the Authority. As the executive organ of the Authority and in accordance with article 162, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the Council has the power to establish, in conformity with the Convention, the Implementing Agreement and the general policies established by the Assembly, the specific policies to be pursued by the Authority on any question or matter within the competence of the Authority. The Council supervises and coordinates the implementation of the provisions of Part XI of the Convention and the Implementing Agreement.

8. To assist the Council on matters relating to the exploration for, exploitation and processing of polymetallic nodules, as well as on matters relating to oceanology, protection of the marine environment or economic or legal matters relating to ocean mining and related fields, the Legal and Technical Commission, inter alia, makes recommendations on a variety of matters to the Council for its consideration, approval or adoption. These recommendations include those relating to the approval of plans of work for activities in the Area, the protection of the marine environment, the establishment of an environmental monitoring programme for the Authority and the proceedings on behalf of the Authority that may be instituted before the Seabed Disputes Chamber. The Legal and Technical Commission is also required to assist the Council through the formulation of rules, regulations and procedures on prospecting, exploration and exploitation in the Area. Moreover, according to section 1, paragraph 4, of the annex to the Implementing Agreement, the functions of the Economic Planning Commission shall be performed by the Legal and Technical Commission until such time as the Council decides otherwise or until the approval of the first plan of work for exploitation.

9. To assist the Assembly or the Council on all matters having a financial and budgetary implication, the Finance Committee is required to make recommendations. In this context, the Finance Committee has to make recommendations on, inter alia, draft financial rules, regulations and procedures of the organs of the Authority, the financial management and internal financial administration of the Authority, the proposed annual budget prepared by the Secretary-General, the financial aspects of the implementation of the programme of work of the Secretariat and the financial obligations of States parties to the Convention and the Implementing Agreement.

10. The Secretariat provides the services that facilitate the deliberations of the representatives of States parties in the Assembly, the Council, the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee and carries out that part of the work programme of those organs and bodies that are assigned to it. By the nature of its work, technical staff members are a team who bring their expertise into the integrated approach called for in relation to deep seabed mining activities. The work of the Secretariat is carried out by the staff of the Authority who are appointed by the Secretary-General.

11. With regard to the functions of the Authority as identified in the Implementing Agreement, the broad responsibilities of the Secretariat are as follows:

(a) Producing reports and other documents containing information, analysis, historical background, research findings, policy suggestions and recommendations, etc., that facilitate the deliberations and decision-making by the organs and bodies of the Authority;

(b) Providing secretariat services to the organs and bodies (e.g., providing secretaries of the organs and bodies; providing information and advice to the bureaux of the organs and bodies and to delegations; and assisting in planning the work of the sessions, in the conduct of the proceedings and in drafting reports);

(c) Providing meeting services (e.g., interpretation, verbatim reporting and précis-writing services) to the organs and bodies, in accordance with the decisions of the Assembly or the Council;

(d) Providing editorial, translation and documents reproduction services for the issuance of the documents of the Authority in the different working languages, in accordance with the policies adopted by the Assembly of the Authority;

(e) Conducting studies and providing information responding to the priority needs of members of the Authority;

(f) Producing publications, information bulletins and analytical work in accordance with the programme of work;

(g) Organizing conferences, expert group meetings, seminars and workshops on topics of concern to the Authority;

(h) Arranging for dissemination to the public of information on the Authority's activities and decisions;

(i) Providing the programme planning, financial, personnel, legal, management, administrative and general services that are essential for the rational selection of work items and allocating resources among them and for the effective, economic and efficient performance of the services and functions of the Secretariat, within the legal framework of regulations, rules and policies adopted by the Assembly.

Requisite organizational units of the Secretariat

12. To fulfil the above responsibilities the Secretariat of the Authority will need to be comprised of the following organizational units:

(a) Office of the Secretary-General;

(b) Office of Legal Services and Implementation Affairs;

(c) Office of Resources and Environmental Monitoring;

(d) Office of Administration and Management.

The programme of work of these four organizational units in 1997 and the post requirements to implement the programme of work are set forth below.

Office of the Secretary-General

13. The broad functions of the Office of the Secretary-General are as follows:

(a) Assisting the Secretary-General in the establishment of general policy and in the exercise of executive direction in relation to the work of the Authority;

(b) Assisting the Secretary-General in his relations with the organs and bodies of the Authority;

(c) Assisting the Secretary-General in supervising and coordinating the work of the Authority, pursuant to his decisions and the relevant directives of the organs and bodies of the Authority relating to organization and administration of the activities in the Area;

(d) Assisting the Secretary-General in his contacts with Governments, delegations, non-governmental organizations, the press and the public;

(e) Preparing draft statements for the Secretary-General, and preparing, or coordinating the preparation of, briefing material for his personal attention;

(f) Dealing with protocol, liaison and representation, organizing official ceremonies and similar functions and making arrangements for permanent representatives to present their credentials to the Secretary-General;

(g) Maintaining up-to-date lists of permanent representatives and other representatives and issuing official identification passes to accredited representatives;

(h) Notifying the host country of the arrivals and departures of members of the permanent missions accredited to the Authority as required by the Host Country Agreement;

(i) Coordinating with the Office of Conference and Support Services of the Department of Administration and Management of the United Nations in New York on the conference-servicing requirements of the Authority during its biannual schedule of meetings;

(j) Ensuring the timely preparation, translation, printing and distribution of official documentation.

14. It is proposed to provide this Office with a total of five posts (in addition to the post of the Secretary-General): one P-5 for a Special Assistant

to the Secretary-General, one P-3 for a Protocol and External Relations Officer, and two General Service posts.

Table 1

Summary of post requirements: Office of the Secretary-General

	Established posts	
	1996	1997
Professional category and above:		
S-G	1	1
D-1	1	
P-5		1
P-3		1
P-2	–	–
Total	2	3
General Service:		
Local level	4	2
Total	4	2
Grand total	6	5

Office of Legal Services and Implementation Affairs

15. A number of rule making and implementation functions are to be carried out by the Authority. The Authority is entrusted with the responsibility of processing applications for approval of plans of work for exploration in accordance with Part XI of the Convention and the Implementing Agreement. This function comprises the formulation and adoption of rules and regulations on the content of an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration and the procedures relating thereto, the internal procedures for the Council and the Legal and Technical Commission regarding the consideration of such applications and decision-making, the scope and means of the verification by the Authority of compliance by the contractors and the terms of contract.

16. Mention should be made in this context of four additional functions that the Authority is required to concentrate on under the terms of the Implementing Agreement which are directly related to the processing of applications for approval of plans of work for exploration:

(a) Adoption of rules, regulations and procedures incorporating applicable standards for the protection and preservation of the marine environment;

(b) Monitoring of compliance with plans of work for exploration approved in the form of contracts;

(c) Promotion and encouragement of the conduct of marine scientific research with respect to activities in the Area and the collection and dissemination of the results of such research and analysis, when available, with particular emphasis on research related to the environmental impact of activities in the Area;

(d) Acquisition of scientific knowledge and monitoring of the development of marine technology relevant to activities in the Area, in particular technology relating to the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

17. Taken together with the provision that the duration of a plan of work for exploration shall be 15 years (sect. 1, para. 9 of the annex to the Implementing Agreement) and the requirement of section 1, paragraph 7, of the annex that "an application for approval of a plan of work shall be accompanied by an assessment of the potential environmental impact of the proposed activities and by a description of a programme for oceanographic and baseline studies in accordance with the rules, regulations and procedures adopted by the Authority", the four additional functions noted above provide a long-term basis for the Authority to adopt regulations that take advantage of current knowledge of the environmental impact of activities in the Area, through the approved plans of work for exploration as well as other mechanisms such as the promotion and encouragement of the conduct of marine scientific research on the environmental impact of activities in the Area, with a view to establishing measures to protect the environment and monitor the effectiveness of these safeguards, in particular for subsequent exploitation activities in the Area. In any event, the adoption of rules, regulations and procedures incorporating applicable standards for the protection and preservation of the marine environment in consonance with the scope and means of the verification by the Authority of compliance with measures to protect the environment will be required before plans of work for exploration can be approved.

18. The Implementing Agreement amends Part XI in a number of ways that directly affect the approval of plans of work for exploration in respect of both substance and timing. For example, in accordance with section 1, paragraph 6 (a) (ii), of the annex, registered pioneer investors are to request approval of plans of work for exploration within 36 months of the entry into force of the Convention (i.e., by 15 November 1997).

19. With regard to substance, the Agreement also affects the content of the draft regulations considered by the Preparatory Commission. As an example, in relation to a registered pioneer investor, section 1, paragraph 6 (a) (ii), of the annex to the Implementing Agreement states, inter alia, that:

> "The plan of work for exploration shall consist of documents, reports and other data submitted to the Preparatory Commission both before and after registration and shall be accompanied by a certificate of compliance, consisting of a factual report describing the status of fulfilment of

obligations under the pioneer investor regime, issued by the Preparatory Commission in accordance with resolution II, paragraph 11 (a)."

20. These considerations require that a thorough review of the draft regulations prepared by the Preparatory Commission be conducted together with an assessment of existing knowledge of the environmental impact of activities in the Area, with a view to reformulating them in accordance with the Implementing Agreement and its annex as well as any further knowledge obtained through research and development connected with the impact of activities in the Area on the marine environment. As a result, it would be beneficial if the adoption of the rules, regulations and procedures for the matters discussed in paragraph 15 above is completed by the spring session of the Authority in 1997, in order to provide the applicants time to submit their applications.

21. In the context of the above work to be carried out, the Office of Legal Services and Implementation Affairs will be responsible for the following functions of the Secretariat during 1997:

(a) Rules, regulations and procedures for the conduct of activities in the Area:

(i) Rules, regulations and procedures for processing applications for approval of plans of work for exploration:

a. Finalize rules, regulations and procedures, including, inter alia:

i. General provisions;

ii. Provisions with regard to content of applications;

iii. Provisions with regard to plans of work, including issues related to the protection and preservation of the marine environment; accommodation of activities in the Area and the marine environment; labour, health and safety standards; and fees;

iv. Provisions with regard to processing of applications;

v. Provisions with regard to consideration of applications and approval of plans of work;

b. Assist the Legal and Technical Commission and the Council in the adoption and application of the rules, regulations and procedures;

c. As requested, assist pioneer investors and potential applicants in the submission of applications in accordance with the rules, regulations and procedures;

d. Formulate terms of contracts and prepare contracts;

e. Assist the Legal and Technical Commission and the Council in the process of the approval of contracts;

f. Develop mechanisms to monitor compliance with the rules, regulations and procedures and monitor such compliance, and assist the Legal and Technical Commission and the Council in their consideration of issues of compliance;

g. Carry out all operational and administrative actions in relation to receipt, recording and processing of applications, preparation and execution of contracts and notification to applicants and member States;

(ii) Rules, regulations and procedures for the conduct of activities in the Area as they progress:

a. Jointly with the Office of Resources and Environmental Monitoring, monitor the status of activities in the Area and apprise the Legal and Technical Commission and the Council of the situation;

b. Jointly with the Office of Resources and Environmental Monitoring, assist the Legal and Technical Commission and the Council in reviewing the situation and determining the need for rules, regulations and procedures;

c. As required, prepare the rules, regulations and procedures;

d. Assist the Legal and Technical Commission and the Council in their consideration and adoption of the rules, regulations and procedures and in their application of the rules, regulations and procedures;

e. Develop mechanisms to monitor compliance with the rules, regulations and procedures and monitor such compliance, and assist the Legal and Technical Commission and the Council in their consideration of issues of compliance;

f. Carry out all operational and administrative actions in relation to the application of the rules, regulations and procedures;

(b) <u>Headquarters Agreement, Privileges and Immunities Agreement and Relationship Agreements</u>:

(i) Headquarters Agreement with the Government of Jamaica:

a. Assist the Secretary-General in negotiating, finalizing and carrying out periodic review;

b. Assist the Council and the Assembly in the consideration and adoption of the Agreement and its revisions, if necessary;

(ii) Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Authority:

a. Assist the Secretary-General in negotiating, finalizing and carrying out periodic review;

b. Assist the Assembly in its consideration and adoption of the Agreement;

(iii) Relationship Agreements between the Authority and the United Nations, and between the Authority and other organizations:

a. Assist the Secretary-General in negotiating and finalizing the Relationship Agreement between the Authority and the United Nations, and in carrying out periodic review;

b. Assist the Council and Assembly in their consideration and adoption of the Relationship Agreement and its implementation;

c. As required, prepare relationship agreements between the Authority and other organizations;

d. Assist the Council and the Assembly in their consideration and adoption of such relationship agreements;

(c) General legal services:

(i) Serve as a legal service for the Secretariat and, in this capacity, advise the Secretary-General on questions of international and national, public, private and administrative law, including, inter alia:

a. Legal aspects of programmes and activities in which the Authority is engaged;

b. Commercial matters involving the administrative and operational activities of the Authority;

c. Financial, personnel and pension matters of the Authority, including the interpretation and application of the Financial Regulations and Rules, the Staff Regulations and Rules, the Regulations and Rules of the Staff Pension Fund and administrative issuances;

(ii) Deal with questions concerning privileges and immunities of the Authority and the Headquarters Agreement with Jamaica;

(iii) Deal with questions relating to credentials of permanent representatives to the Authority and representatives to the Authority's organs and bodies as well as conferences;

(iv) Maintain liaison on legal matters between the Authority and the United Nations, organizations of the United Nations system and other organizations;

(v) Maintain liaison with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations and keep abreast of developments in the law of the sea;

(vi) Maintain liaison on legal matters with the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and keep abreast of the proceedings in the Commission;

(vii) Maintain liaison with the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea;

(viii) Represent the Secretary-General in judicial proceedings, negotiations or other procedures for the settlement of disputes of a legal character;

(d) Certification of legal instruments issued by the Authority:

Assist the Secretary-General in certifying legal instruments issued by the Authority;

(e) Substantive secretariat services to the organs and bodies of the Authority:

Jointly with the Office of Resources and Environmental Monitoring, provide integrated substantive services to the organs and bodies of the Authority as detailed in paragraph 17:

(i) Assembly;

(ii) Council;

(iii) Legal and Technical Commission.

22. In order to carry out the above programme of work, five posts (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 2 General Service) are proposed for the Office of Legal Services and Implementation Affairs.

Table 2

Summary of post requirements: Office of Legal Services and Implementation Affairs

	Established posts	
	1996	1997
Professional category and above:		
D-1		1
P-5	1	1
P-4		1
P-3		
P-2	1	–
Total	2	3
General Service:		
Local level	2	2
Total	2	2
Grand total	4	5

Office of Resources and Environmental Monitoring

23. A number of resource- and environment-related functions are to be carried out by the Authority. In relation to "administering the resources of the Area", in view of the interest of member States in conservation and rational management in the development of the resources of the Area, the Authority must make an effective and sustained effort to collect, manage and distribute information on the Area in order, inter alia, to provide an adequate understanding of the likely environmental impact of deep seabed mining, estimate the magnitude of the polymetallic nodule resources in the world's oceans, in particular the potentially recoverable resources in various ocean areas, and in accordance with article 143, paragraph 2, of the Convention, promote and encourage marine scientific research to foster the objective of member States to increase the global reserves of the metals available in polymetallic nodules. In this context, the Implementing Agreement imposes two immediate responsibilities on the Authority: (a) assessment of available data relating to prospecting and exploration (Authority) and evaluation of information and data relating to areas reserved for the Authority (Enterprise); and (b) adoption of rules, regulations and procedures incorporating applicable standards for the protection and preservation of the marine environment and acquisition of scientific knowledge and monitoring of the development of marine technology relevant to activities in the Area, in particular technology relating to the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

24. Recent years have seen considerable activity to obtain general survey data as well as detailed information concerning deep seabed areas expected to contain mineral deposits. In addition to polymetallic nodule resources that the Convention identifies as the priority mineral resources for which rules, regulations and procedures are to be adopted and approved by the Assembly, other known mineral resources drawing considerable interest are cobalt-rich manganese oxide crusts on bedrock, polymetallic sulphide deposits along ocean-floor spreading centres and red clay deposits. With respect to these and other minerals to be found in the Area, the Convention stipulates that rules, regulations and procedures for the exploration and exploitation of such resources shall be adopted within three years from the date of a request to the Authority by any of its members for the adoption of such rules in respect of such resource. With regard to polymetallic nodules, activities have resulted in basic information that has made it possible to indicate the resource potential in future mining areas. The characteristics of these selected areas are also important for the design of mining equipment and for concept selection.

25. The above considerations provide the basis for the work that the Authority has to carry out to continually obtain an assessment of the polymetallic nodule resources of the Area. With the establishment of the Authority, a concerted effort must be made to enable it to become the central data repository of polymetallic nodule resources of the Area. Such a step would also facilitate the dissemination of timely information to members of the Authority.

26. The resource assessment aspect of the work of the Authority will comprise the following components: (a) global recovering of data that are available in the public domain on resources of the Area, in particular, polymetallic nodules with a view to estimating their economic potential; (b) regional recovery of data available on polymetallic nodule resources in the primary areas (Clarion-Clipperton Zone, South Pacific Ocean and the Central Indian Ocean Basin) with a view to monitoring trends in the development of technologies for mining nodule resources as well as encouraging marine scientific research for the conversion of potential ore bodies located in these areas to reserves; and (c) site-specific information on the conversion process, including the results of measures taken during the exploration phase to protect the environment and to monitor the effectiveness of environmental safeguards during the subsequent exploitation phase, and resource conservation issues in connection with mining (pattern mining as opposed to mining of the richest zones of a mine site first) and the issue of the retention of manganese tailings in a three-metal operation. For the purposes of its administrative functions, the Authority will need to formulate regulations that deal with: the harmful impacts of activities in the Area on the environment; a control system to ensure that set standards are complied with; and the promotion of compliance with standards through sanctions and compulsory means (enforcement). In order to establish the material content of the standards, it must be clarified whether and to what extent harmful environmental effects from the activity in question can be accepted, and this in turn is based on a knowledge of the effect of the activity on the environment. In relation to the resources in the Area, the Agreement entrusts the Authority with the further responsibilities of monitoring and review of trends and developments relating to deep seabed mining activities, including regular analysis of world metal market conditions and metal prices, trends and prospects; and of study of the potential impact of mineral production from the

Area on the economies of developing land-based producers of those minerals which are likely to be most seriously affected, with a view to minimizing their difficulties and assisting them in their economic adjustment, taking into account the work done in this regard by the Preparatory Commission.

27. The Implementing Agreement also entrusts the Authority with the responsibilities of implementing the decisions of the Preparatory Commission relating to the registered pioneer investors and their certifying States, including their rights and obligations, in accordance with article 308, paragraph 5, of the Convention and paragraph 13 of resolution II, of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

28. Pursuant to the decisions of the General Committee of the Preparatory Commission to register the pioneer investors, a series of understandings on the fulfilment of obligations by the registered pioneer investors and their certifying States were subsequently adopted. The understandings created several new obligations as a quid pro quo for the waiving of certain obligations required under resolution II. The obligations of the registered pioneer investors fall under the following headings: (a) periodic expenditures; (b) reporting by the certifying State; (c) provision of data; (d) relinquishment; (e) exploration plan for reserved areas in the central region of the north-east Pacific; and (f) training.

29. Within the framework of the above work to be carried out, the Office of Resources and Environmental Monitoring will be responsible for the following functions of the Secretariat, as and when required in 1997:

(a) Development and maintenance of the central data repository of resources of the Area, in particular, polymetallic nodule resources:

(i) Establish cooperative mechanisms with global, regional and national organizations involved in research and data collection related to resources of the Area, in particular, polymetallic nodule resources;

(ii) Establish cooperative mechanisms with pioneer investors and potential applicants;

(iii) Assemble information on the available types of data on polymetallic nodule resources of the Area, including the sources, formats and cost of obtaining such data;

(iv) Establish cooperative mechanisms with global, regional and national organizations involved in marine geological and geophysical data collection, in particular, data related to the bathymetry, macro- and micro-topographical data of the Area;

(v) Assemble information on the sources, formats and costs of obtaining the publicly available data on the bathymetry and topography of the Area, in particular the primary areas of nodule deposition;

(vi) Establish methodologies for uniform and consistent data entry of bathymetric and geological data;

(vii) Expand existing polymetallic nodule database (POLYDAT) to include digitized data on the bathymetry, topography, environment and resource data of the Area as available;

(viii) Disseminate periodically, and as required, information on polymetallic nodule resources, in custom-tailored forms, including graphical representations;

(ix) Disseminate periodically, and as required, bathymetric, topographical, environmental and geological information, integrated with polymetallic nodule resource information, in custom-tailored forms, including maps and charts;

(b) Prevention, reduction and control of pollution of the marine environment from activities in the Area:

(i) Establish cooperative mechanisms with global, regional and national organizations involved in marine environmental data collection;

(ii) In cooperation with organizations active in environmental research in the Area, determine the current status of knowledge for assessing and predicting the environmental impact of activities in the Area;

(iii) In cooperation with organizations active in environmental research in the Area and pioneer investors, formulate a plan to assess the environmental effects of exploration and commercial recovery, identifying the main concerns and the elements to be included in the programme, including the natural diversity of the deep seabed biota, life histories of major organisms likely to be affected, etc.;

(iv) Assist the Legal and Technical Commission in the identification of the specific data and information to be submitted in the various reports of contractors (environmental impact statement, annual report, etc.), for establishing impact and preservation reference zones and to be specified in their contracts;

(v) Assist the Legal and Technical Commission in establishing a database that would allow the assessment and prediction of the environmental impact of activities in the Area;

(vi) Assist the Legal and Technical Commission in the establishment of a monitoring programme to observe, measure, evaluate and analyse by recognized scientific methods, on a regular basis, the risks or effects of pollution resulting from activities in the Area;

(vii) Jointly with the Office of Legal Services and Implementation Affairs, assist the Legal and Technical Commission in devising a control system (including the establishment of standards) to ensure that the rules and regulations with regard to the protection and preservation of the marine environment are complied with;

(c) Science and technology relevant to activities in the Area:

(i) Acquisition of scientific knowledge:

a. Monitor marine scientific studies relevant to activities in the Area;

b. Assemble findings of such studies in an integrated framework;

c. Develop strategies for promotion and encouragement of the conduct of marine scientific research with respect to activities in the Area, with particular emphasis on research related to the environmental impact of activities in the Area and in support of the Authority's Monitoring Programme, and implement such strategies;

d. Collect results of research and analysis from marine scientific investigations carried out pursuant to such strategies;

e. Disseminate such results, as required;

(ii) Development of a technology database:

a. Establish an effective mechanism for monitoring developments related to marine technology relevant to the activities in the Area, and monitor the development of marine technology relevant to activities in the Area, in particular technology relating to the protection and preservation of the marine environment;

b. Design a technology database with a view to assembling information on available marine technology, in particular technology relating to the protection and preservation of the marine environment, and develop a technology database pursuant to the design;

c. Disseminate information on marine technology relevant to activities in the Area, as required;

d. Maintain liaison with institutions, corporations and other entities concerned with the development of relevant technology;

(d) Trends and developments relating to deep seabed mining activities, including world metal market conditions, metal prices, trends and prospects:

(i) Deep seabed mining:

a. Establish an effective mechanism to monitor trends and developments relating to deep seabed mining activities, and jointly with the Office of Legal Services and Implementation Affairs, monitor such trends and developments;

b. Develop and maintain an information base incorporating information on such trends and developments, and as required, disseminate information from the information base;

c. Jointly with the Office of Legal Services and Implementation Affairs, assist the Legal and Technical Commission and the Council in their review of such developments;

(ii) World metal market conditions:

a. Establish an effective mechanism to monitor developments in world metal markets, including prices, trends and prospects;

b. Update and expand the existing mineral database (MINDAT) on production, consumption, trade, prices, reserves and resources of the metals that might be extracted from deep seabed minerals as well as information on current land-based producers and exporters, in particular, developing countries;

c. Monitor developments in world metal markets and, as required, disseminate information on such developments;

(e) Inputs in the rules, regulations and procedures:

Provide economic, technical and scientific inputs in the preparation and application of and monitoring compliance with the rules, regulations and procedures for processing applications for approval of plans of work for exploration, and for the conduct of activities in the Area as they progress;

(f) Substantive secretariat services to the organs and bodies of the Authority:

Jointly with the Office of Legal Services and Implementation Affairs, provide integrated substantive services to the organs and bodies of the Authority as detailed in paragraph 17:

(i) Assembly;

(ii) Council;

(iii) Legal and Technical Commission;

(g) Implementation of the decisions of the Preparatory Commission relating to the registered pioneer investors and their certifying States:

(i) Training:

a. As recommended, continue the functions of the Preparatory Commission Training Panel with regard to:

i. Monitoring of the implementation of training programmes of the registered pioneer investors;

ii. Evaluation of the training received;

iii. Issuance of training certificates;

iv. Review and approval of training programmes of newly registered pioneer investors;

b. Follow-up to offers of training by Finland, the International Ocean Institute and Germany;

c. Make an inventory of training programmes in the field of deep seabed mining implemented by global, regional and national organizations;

d. Communicate with prospective Governments/organizations that might offer training;

e. Promote the realization of benefits by members of the Authority, especially developing countries, from such training programmes;

(ii) Exploration plan for reserved areas in the central region of the north-east Pacific:

a. Assist the Legal and Technical Commission and the Council in their consideration of the status of exploration work in the reserved areas;

b. As necessary, monitor the implementation of Stage I of the exploration plan for reserved areas;

(iii) Other matters:

a. Jointly with the Office of Legal Services and Implementation Affairs, monitor the implementation of the decisions of the Preparatory Commission with regard to:

i. Periodic expenditures;

ii. Reporting by certifying States;

iii. Provision of data;

iv. Relinquishment;

b. As required, and jointly with the Office of Legal Services and Implementation Affairs, assist the Legal and Technical Commission and the Council in their consideration of the above matters;

(h) Enterprise:

Monitor, assess and evaluate data and information in the development of deep seabed mining from the perspective of the Enterprise and issue periodic reports thereon.

30. In order to carry out the above programme of work, seven posts (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 2 P-4 and 3 General Service) are proposed for the Office of Resources and Environmental Monitoring.

Table 3

Summary of post requirements: Office of Resources and Environmental Monitoring

	Established posts	
	1996	1997
Professional category and above:		
D-1		1
P-5		1
P-4		2
P-3		
P-2	–	–
Total	0	4
General Service:		
Local level	1	3
Total	1	3
Grand total	1	7

Office of Administration and Management

31. High priority is accorded to the establishment of an effective and coherent administrative and management office in the Authority, with clear lines of responsibility and accountability. Accordingly, the Office of Administration and Management will comprise organizational units responsible for:

(a) Programme planning and budgeting;

(b) Accounts and treasury;

(c) Personnel recruitment and administration;

(d) General support services, comprising procurement, transportation, management of buildings and grounds, and office automation;

(e) Security;

(f) Library services.

32. In 1997, the Office will continue to work towards the establishment of the required financial management and control mechanisms and will focus on the finalization of the Organization's financial and staff regulations and rules and other internal administrative policies and procedures. It will provide secretariat services to the Finance Committee and, as required, will assist the Council and the Assembly in their consideration and adoption of the financial and staff regulations of the Authority.

33. Under the overall direction and oversight of the Chief of Administration, the main functions and responsibilities of the organizational units mentioned in paragraph 31 above are as follows:

(a) Programme planning and budgeting:

(i) Preparation of proposed programme budgets and related revised estimates and statements of programme budget implications;

(ii) Authorization of expenditures and staffing tables;

(iii) Review and monitoring of expenditures;

(iv) Review of compliance with staffing tables and maintenance of vacancy statistics;

(v) Development and maintenance of parameters for costing the programme budgets;

(vi) Servicing of intergovernmental bodies;

(b) Accounts and treasury:

(i) Assessment of contributions of member States and, as appropriate, assessment of contributions by non-member States for their participation in the activities of the Authority;

(ii) Processing of assessed and voluntary contributions and monitoring of the status thereof as well as preparing monthly reports on the status of contributions;

(iii) Administration of bank accounts and reconciliation of monthly bank statements;

(iv) Short-term investments: daily monitoring of interest rates; planning for monthly cash requirements and investing funds for periods of up to one year;

(v) Cash management;

(vi) Receiving and recording all payments; effecting all disbursements and maintaining liaison with banks;

(vii) Processing of financial and accounting documents; recording the collection of monies and other receivables owed to the Organization; production of financial statements and monthly allotment reports; recording and preparation of consolidated statements of income and expenditure; maintenance of accounts and preparation of reports;

(viii) Payment of salaries and related allowances and other benefits to staff and consultants; processing of income tax reimbursements; preparation of reports and statements of earnings, including annual United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund reports and schedules; processing payments to vendors and other contractors; processing of travel claims;

(c) Personnel recruitment and administration:

(i) Recruitment of Professional staff subject to geographical distribution, and recruitment of General Service staff; preparation of vacancy announcements and advertisements; interviewing candidates in cooperation with concerned Offices; presentation of recommendations for recruitment of candidates to the appointment and promotion bodies, as applicable; requesting releases and visas; making arrangements for travel when appropriate;

(ii) Short-term recruitment of staff for conferences and for other requirements of short duration;

(iii) Recruitment of consultants and individual contractors;

(iv) Personnel administration of staff in accordance with applicable regulations and rules; initial offers of appointment and extensions; review of contractual status of staff; counselling on personnel problems, compliance with the code of conduct for international civil servants; identification of potential problems between management and staff and contributing to their resolution; contributing to the development and revision of personnel policies in the light of experience in their application;

(v) Determination of eligibility for benefits and allowances in accordance with applicable regulations and rules;

(vi) Coordination with other organizations of the common system on policies and procedures regarding salaries, pensions, allowances and other entitlements;

(d) General support services:

(i) Negotiation, preparation and administration of contracts for the procurement of supplies, equipment, contractual services and external

printing and binding services; presentation of cases to the Contracts Committee, as applicable; development and maintenance of a computerized roster of vendors and completed purchase orders; processing and expediting acquisitions, bids, purchase orders and invoices;

(ii) Processing of laissez-passer and visa applications, customs clearances and travel transactions for staff members of the Authority;

(iii) Arrangement of incoming and outgoing shipments of household goods and personal effects for staff members; monitoring of shipments by forwarders; customs clearances; filing and settlement of insurance claims; provision of stores and control services for expendable supplies; preparation, receipt and inspection of reports; management and operation of official vehicles; provision of local transportation of mail and pouch items between the Secretariat of the Authority and other organizations;

(iv) Supervision of contractual arrangements for rented premises; property management for non-expendable equipment; information and reception services, including handling telephone requests for information by the public, diplomatic mission personnel and staff; mail operations services; provision of guidelines on space standards and development of plans for future requirements;

(v) Provision of efficient, reliable and cost-effective computer and telecommunications operations and infrastructure; assisting offices in the development of electronic applications necessary to fulfil their programme of activities; providing an efficient and reliable internal and external electronic communications capability; exploring new technologies and their applicability to the work of the Organization;

(e) Security:

Activities will focus on the security and safety of visiting dignitaries, delegates, staff members and visitors to the Secretariat and the conference complex. The unit will coordinate with the relevant local authorities, with the local offices of other international organizations and with the common system Security Coordinator located at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The activities will include, inter alia:

(i) Inspection of premises, including elevators for safety and fire hazards; conducting safety training; coordination of fire drills; review of alteration plans to ensure that safety and fire requirements are met; drafting safety reports and recommendations; monitoring and inspection of fire and water alarms; practice evacuation of premises; and making recommendations on the acquisition of safety equipment;

(ii) Inspection of areas during bomb threats; responding to alarms and emergencies; and investigation of motor vehicle accidents, compensation cases, accidents involving visitors and staff members,

illnesses involving visitors and damage to personal and the Authority's property;

(f) Library services:

(i) Continuation of the acquisition programme of specialized books and other reference materials relevant to the work of the Authority;

(ii) Provision of services to members of delegations, diplomatic missions, researchers, students and other interested individuals.

34. In order to carry out its programme of work, it is proposed to provide the Office of Administration and Management with 13 posts (1 P-5, 4 P-3 and 8 General Service).

Table 4

Summary of post requirements: Office of Administration and Management

	Established posts	
	1996	1997
Professional category and above:		
P-5	1	1
P-3		4
P-2	1	—
Total	2	5
General Service:		
Local level	7	8
Total	7	8
Grand total	9	13

Other resource requirements

35. In addition to requirements for posts and common staff costs ($1,526,900), non-post resources in the estimated amount of $1,223,600 would also be required for the administrative expenses of the Secretariat. The amount of $1,400,000 would provide for the required conference-servicing costs. Table 5 presents a summary of the post requirements in the four organizational units of the Secretariat of the Authority in 1997. Table 6 presents a summary of the resource requirements of the Authority in 1997.

Table 5

Organizational units of the Secretariat of the International Seabed Authority and post requirements in 1997

Secretary-General

Office of the Secretary-General

1 P-5
1 P-3
2 GS

- Protocol and external relations
- Conference coordination

Office of Administration and Management

1 P-5
4 P-3
8 GS

- Programme planning and budgeting
- Accounts and treasury
- Personnel recruitment and administration
- General services
- Security
- Library services
- Translation and interpretation
- Substantive secretariat to the Finance Committee

Office of Legal Services and Implementation Affairs

1 D-1
1 P-5
1 P-4
2 GS

- Rule making
  - Approval of plans of work
  - Conduct of activities as they progress
- Headquarters, privileges and immunities and relationship agreements
- General legal services
- Certification of legal instruments
- Substantive secretariat services to the organs of the Authority
  - Assembly
  - Council
  - Legal and Technical Commission

Office of Resources and Environmental Monitoring

1 D-1 - Coordinator of Programme and Interim Director-General of the Enterprise
1 P-5 - (Marine Geologist)
1 P-4 - (Marine Biologist)
1 P-4 - (Systems Analyst)
3 GS

- Central data repository of the resources of the Area
- Prevention, reduction and control of pollution from activities in the Area
- Science and technology
- Trends and developments relating to deep seabed mining activities
- Inputs in rule making
- Implementation of the decisions of the Preparatory Commission
- Substantive secretariat services to the organs of the Authority
  - Assembly
  - Council
  - Legal and Technical Commission
- Activities relating to the Enterprise

Post requirements

SG	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Total Professionals and above	Total General Service	Grand Total
1	2	4	3	5	-	15	15	30

Table 6

International Seabed Authority: summary of budgetary requirements for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1997

(In thousands of United States dollars)

		Amount
(a)	Administrative expenses of the Secretariat	
	Established posts	1 072.5
	Temporary assistance for meetings	51.0
	General temporary assistance	163.6
	Overtime	8.0
	Consultants	90.0
	Common staff costs	454.4
	Travel of staff to official meetings	41.0
	Other official travel	44.0
	External printing and binding	30.0
	Rental and maintenance of premises	425.0
	Rental and maintenance of furniture and equipment	45.0
	Local transportation	18.0
	Communications	40.0
	Official functions	8.0
	Freight	25.0
	Miscellaneous services	15.0
	Supplies and materials	30.0
	Acquisition of furniture and equipment	190.0
		2 750.5
(b)	Conference-servicing costs (two sessions)	1 400.0
	Total	4 150.5

Notes

a/ Decision adopted by consensus at the resumed second session of the Authority, on 16 August 1996 (see document ISBA/A/14).

b/ Report of the Preparatory Commission under paragraph 11 of resolution I of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea ..., vol. II (LOS/PCN/153 (Vol. II)), documents of the plenary, document LOS/PCN/L.115/Rev.1, para. 35.

ANNEX II

Detailed breakdown of budgetary requirements as listed in table 6 of annex I

(In thousands of United States dollars)

Posts and common staff costs (30 posts)		1 526.9
Temporary assistance for meetings		51.0
- Assistant Conference Officers, Secretaries, Reproduction and Distribution Clerks, Sound Recording Technicians and Messengers (185 work-weeks)		
General temporary assistance		163.6
- Provision for maternity leave, extended sick leave and peak-workload situations		
Overtime		8.0
Consultants		90.0
- Design and implementation of a computer operations infrastructure including internal and external electronic communications capability	15.0	
- Provision of user support	5.0	
- Assistance in the preparation and implementation of a security plan	25.0	
- Organization of the database of the Authority	13.6	
- Examination of legal standards for the protection of the environment	13.8	
- Preparation of resource papers and materials for two workshops	17.6	
	90.0	
Travel of staff to official meetings		41.0
- Press Officers, DOALOS, Sound Technician, Security		

Other official travel of staff		44.0
- Consultations with pioneer investors:		
China and India	8.2	
France, Poland and Russian Federation	8.7	
Japan and Republic of Korea	10.0	
- Consultations at United Nations Headquarters Relationship Agreement with the United Nations; participation in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund; administrative and financial matters	7.4	
- Consultations with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission	4.3	
- Attendance at meetings of States Parties to the Law of the Sea Convention (June and September 1997) in New York	4.0	
- Attendance at the Offshore Technology Conference (Houston, Texas, May 1997)	1.4	
	44.0	
External printing and binding		30.0
- Official documentation and information materials		
Rental and maintenance of premises		425.0
- Provision for Secretary-General's residence	60.0	
- Office space: rental and minor alterations	275.0	
- Rental of Conference Centre	90.0	
	425.0	
Rental and maintenance of furniture and equipment		45.0
- Reproduction, photocopiers, computers	16.9	
- Maintenance and operation of official vehicles	6.0	
- Office furniture and equipment	22.1	
	45.0	
Local transportation		18.0
- Rental of three buses for four weeks		
Communications		40.0
- Local and long-distance telephone and facsimile charges and rental of units		

Official functions		8.0
- Two official receptions; official hospitality for government officials and members of delegations		
Freight		25.0
- Shipping and insurance of documents and equipment (New York/Kingston/New York)		
Miscellaneous services		15.0
- Contractual services for buildings and grounds		
- Other miscellaneous services		
Supplies and materials		30.0
- Office supplies and materials		
- EDP supplies and materials		
- Library books and subscriptions		
Acquisition of furniture and equipment		190.0
- One file server	40.0	
- 18 PCs with printers	45.0	
- Multi-user application software and specialized software: payroll ("ProGen"), accounting ("Sun System") and mapping	65.0	
- Office furniture and equipment	40.0	
	190.0	
Total administrative expenses		2 750.5
Conference-servicing costs		1 400.0
Total budget		4 150.5